Thursday

Boston March 20th 1777

The Honorable John Hancock Esq.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you the 13th p. post and informed you of the proceedings of the Corporation. Tuesday the Board of Overseers met. Doctor Cooper tells me that your Letter to the Corporation was laid before them, with information that I had delivered them the Bond &c. sent by M.r Hall. — After some Conversation they thought proper to chose a Committee upon the Matter to report at their next Meeting / Tuesday next / the Committee are M.r Greenleaf, M.r Phillips & M.r Dana of the Council, with M.r Gordon & M.r Lothrop of the Clergy. — I suppose Sir, that Congress will by this post have a particular Account of the Grand Supply of Arms Powder Cloathing &c. received from France, I congratulate you Sir on this event, and also on the very important Intelligence from that Quarter. I have during the whole War hope that we should not be conquered by the Brute of Britain, I now begin to settle down into a sure and certain hope that our Salvation draweth nigh — O Britain what hast thou lost — The last Evening we had the pleasure of seeing two fine Prizes ensigned in our Harbour. One is the Royal George taken by Capt Stevens, her Cargo was mentioned in last weeks paper. The other is the Ship taken by the Lady Washington Privateer, they were both carried into Falmouth, and were ordered here. — Your old friend Joshua Blanchard has a 32th in the Royall George. Jos. Barrell has an 8th, the remainder is owned in Marblehead — I have received of M.r Dutton Isham & Day £470, since my last, they promise to pay their Ballance soon. The Town continues in a most deplorable Condition with respect to Provisions, many People cannot get a joint of fresh Meat once in a fortnight, the

and

and to make the matter compleat our fishermen are as bad as the Country folks. The Court are about remedying this Matter and I hope they will effect it. — All things stand well and in good Order at the Mannion House and around it, and I have a particular pleasure in hopeing soon to see it again in the actual possession of it's right Owner. Mr. Bant joins me in most respectful Regards to you, Sir, Mrs Hancock & Miss Quincy. —

I continue dear Sir, with the most unreserved Esteem Your greatly Obliged most Obedient & most humble Servt

William Bant

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To

The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.r

In

Philadelphia

Favrt

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